

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY/WOW COUNTIES

SEPTEMBER 2003



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

August was a Quiet Month

Milwaukee County's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.8 percent in August. This rate was five-tenths of a percentage point higher than the rate of August 2002.

Washington County's unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in August. This rate was two-tenths of a percentage point higher than July's figure and was seven-tenths of a point higher than August 2002.

Ozaukee County's unemployment rate rose three-tenths of a point in August to 4.9 percent and was higher than the August 2002 rate by six-tenths of a percent point.

Waukesha County's unemployment rate for the month of August was 4.6 percent. Waukesha County was the only metro county to show a decrease in its rate compared to last month; it decreased one-tenth of a percentage point. Waukesha County did follow suit with the rest of the metro area with a higher unemployment rate (0.2 percentage point) than that of August 2002.

The unemployment rate of the **Milwaukee-Waukesha Metropolitan Area** remained unchanged over the month at 6.5 percent. The labor force shows 400 fewer unemployed over the month coupled with an almost 10,000 person decrease in the number of employed. This labor force dynamic is a common occurrence for the month of August as it is a transition month of seasonal employment. The transition usually shows a larger decrease in the number of employed compared to the decrease in unemployed. September figures will show a different seasonal transition.

The labor force showed an overall, annual increase of almost 4,200 participants compared to August 2002. The labor force growth was composed of 430 more residents employed and 3,750 more residents unemployed. All four metro counties showed a larger increase of unemployed than the employed causing the over all metro unemployment rate to be four-tenths of a percentage point higher than last August's.

The industry performance of the **Milwaukee-Waukesha**

Metropolitan Area was subdued in August showing a small net decrease of 500 jobs over the month. Historical trends demonstrate that August usually shows a bit of an increase in the industry employment numbers.

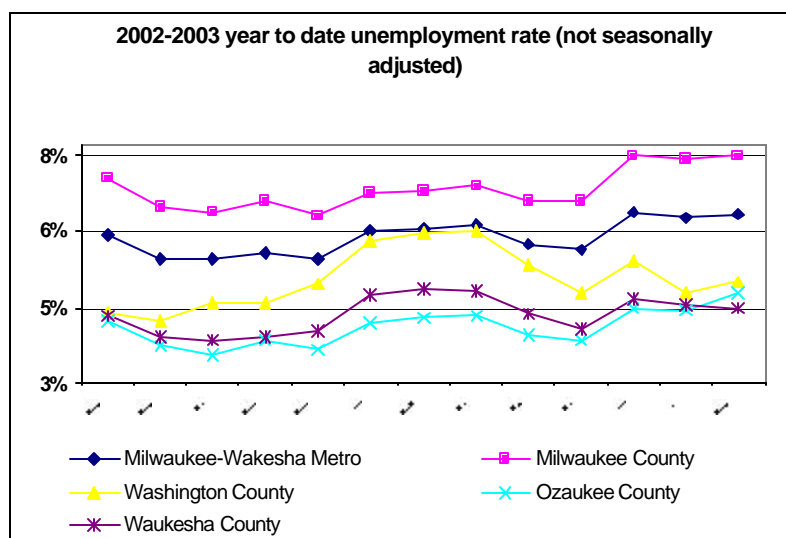
The most dynamic monthly activity was seen in professional and business services employment and in financial activities employment, which showed employment losses of 800 and 500 jobs, respectively. The losses were offset by a 600-job gain in government employment, a 400-job gain in transportation, warehousing and utilities and a 300-job gain in leisure and hospitality. Durable goods manufacturing also showed a small net gain of 100 jobs in August. The bulk of these additional manufacturing jobs were in machinery manufacturing (+300 jobs). Slight employment losses in electronic appliance production and computer and electronics production dampened the nice gain in machinery production. Wholesale trade employment posted a gain of 100 jobs over the month; the fourth month in a row to show such an employment rise. Wholesale trade employment is very sensitive to movements in manufacturing, and in turn, reacts to these suppliers' production levels. Construction employment showed a slight loss over the month of 100 jobs.

Industry employment data show 11,900 fewer jobs compared to August 2002 equaling 1.4 percent fewer jobs. This is a continuation of the annual job deficit that the metro area has been running for some time, just like many areas of the United States.

There is good news buried in this overall deficit. The financial activities industry has gained almost three percent in employment compared to last year.

Information and professional, scientific and technical services each gained a combined 1,300 more jobs. And wholesale trade employment is up one percent (+400 jobs), which is the first annual improvement in this industry's employment level since March 2001.

Manufacturing shows 5,900 fewer jobs. Employment services employment (personnel supply agencies) is down considerably 4,400 jobs. Retail trade employment shows 2,000 fewer jobs than in August 2002.



August 2003	Wisconsin	Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA	Milwaukee County/WDA	Washington County	Ozaukee County	Waukesha County	W-O-W WDA
Civilian Labor Force*	3,129,356	828,470	492,028	69,970	49,316	217,156	336,442
Persons Employed	2,959,618	774,388	453,832	66,387	46,914	207,256	320,557
Persons Unemployed	169,738	54,082	38,196	3,583	2,402	9,900	15,885
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	6.5%	7.8%	5.1%	4.9%	4.6%	4.7%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	2,795.1	827.4	524.6	47.2	37.3	218.3	302.7
Goods Producing Jobs	652.8	172.6	82.8	16.3	11.7	61.7	89.8
Service Producing Jobs	2,142.3	654.8	441.7	30.9	25.5	156.5	213.1
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	131.8	35.2	13.8	3.1	1.6	16.7	21.5
All Manufacturing	521.0	137.4	69.0	13.2	10.1	45.0	68.3
Total Trade	442.2	121.3	66.4	7.3	5.4	42.1	54.8
Wholesale Trade	119.1	41.1	20.8	2.1	1.4	16.8	20.3
Retail Trade	323.1	80.2	45.7	5.2	3.9	25.4	34.6
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	102.5	29.1	21.7	1.5	0.4	5.5	7.3
Financial Activities	159.3	59.9	41.5	2.0	2.1	14.3	18.6
Education and Health Services	363.3	127.9	94.0	5.3	4.4	24.3	34.0
Leisure & Hospitality	260.5	68.0	43.6	4.7	3.4	16.3	24.3
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	439.4	163.5	113.9	5.4	6.0	38.2	49.8
Information	50.9	19.7	13.5	0.5	0.3	5.4	6.2
Professional and Business Services	250.7	102.2	73.7	2.3	3.8	22.4	28.7
Other Services	137.8	41.6	26.7	2.6	1.9	10.4	15.0
All Government	375.1	85.1	60.7	4.6	3.9	15.9	24.3
Change from July 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	-38,630	-10,230	-6,030	-730	-460	-3,010	-4,200
Persons Employed	-32,640	-9,830	-5,760	-840	-600	-2,630	-4,070
Persons Unemployed	-5,990	-400	-270	110	130	-380	-130
Unemployment Rate	-0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	-0.1%	0.0%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	-5.4	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.2
Goods Producing Jobs	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Service Producing Jobs	-7.5	-0.5	-0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.2
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1
All Manufacturing	2.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Trade	1.9	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	1.5	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-1.2	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	-0.1	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2
Education and Health Services	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Leisure & Hospitality	-1.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	-1.0	-0.9	-0.6	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.3
Information	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional and Business Services	0.3	-0.8	-0.6	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.2
Other Services	-1.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All Government	-5.8	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Change from August 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	74,000	4,170	2,780	520	320	560	1,400
Persons Employed	59,120	430	250	40	30	120	180
Persons Unemployed	14,880	3,750	2,530	480	300	440	1,220
Unemployment Rate	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.2%	0.3%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	1.2	-11.9	-6.8	-0.8	-0.7	-3.7	-5.2
Goods Producing Jobs	-23.4	-6.9	-3.4	-0.7	-0.5	-2.4	-3.6
Service Producing Jobs	24.6	-4.9	-3.4	-0.2	-0.2	-1.3	-1.6
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-8.1	-1.0	-0.4	-0.1	0.0	-0.5	-0.6
All Manufacturing	-15.2	-5.9	-3.0	-0.6	-0.4	-1.9	-2.9
Total Trade	9.3	-1.6	-0.9	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	-0.8
Wholesale Trade	3.6	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Retail Trade	5.7	-2.0	-1.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	-0.8
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-1.1	-0.6	-0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	5.2	1.6	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5
Education and Health Services	6.4	1.6	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	9.4	-3.8	-2.8	-0.1	-0.1	-0.8	-1.0
Information	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Professional and Business Services	6.3	-4.6	-3.3	-0.1	-0.2	-1.0	-1.3
Other Services	2.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
All Government	-4.5	-2.2	-1.6	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates.

Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total

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